

1,000,000 voters and I said, well how many voters do we have that are already registered in the State of Nebraska. Well we have 900,000 people already registered to vote, so the only pool that we're drawing from is a pool of 100,000 voters to try to get those 100,000 voters to register to vote. We were going to spend 730,000 state dollars in two years to try and get 100,000 people to register to vote, people that have that opportunity right now to go register to vote. But we wanted to see if we could make it easier for them and spending \$730,000. Now it's closer to half a million dollars in the next two years. We're going to spend half a million dollars as we're having all these budget talks here about what's worth funding and what is not worth funding and what we're going to do with the budget and our budget right now is up to about \$90 million for next year that we're short. We're going to have to spend half a million of that to try to get 100,000 people to register to vote. Now you're talking about federal unfunded mandates here, the same kind of mandates that we often do to some of the small...on a smaller degree to some of our people out in Nebraska, but this is what happens when you've got people who are willing to vote on a symbol over substance issue. It's symbolic that they wanted people to go ahead and register to vote. This country, every individual can register to vote. We have 100,000 that chose not to do so and yet we're going to spend half a million dollars to try to make them register to vote. I think this is outrageous and I just wanted to make sure I had the opportunity to say that for the record.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Withem, your light is next.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I am in support of the Schimek amendment and feel comfortable having it added to a bill of which I am one of the principal sponsors. I'm not sure, Senator Witek did a good job I think of giving arguments as, policy arguments as to why people may not like the motor-voter concept, but I'd like to ask just again in case people missed Senator Schimek's initial introduction. I know sometimes we don't listen, particularly when it's Senator Schimek talking, and so seriously, sometimes we don't listen all that closely to introductions and then only when we find that measures become controversial that we start paying attention. Senator Schimek, could I ask you a question as to why this amendment is needed this year?